

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 19098 161610Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SIL-01 AF-04 INR-05 CIAE-00
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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB EG US
SUBJECT: VISIT OF EGYPTIAN LABOR LEADER

REF: STATE 206053

1. REFTEL IS INTERESTING. WE HERE CLEARLY WOULD
WELCOME ANY CLOSER TIES THAT MIGHT DEVELOP BETWEEN EFL
AND HISTADRUT. SOME EGYPTIAN UNION LEADERS WOULD ALSO
LIKE GREATER CONTACT WITH ISRAELI COUNTERPARTS, BUT IT
IS FRANKLY DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE OF EGYPTIAN LABOR
MOVEMENT GETTING OUT AHEAD OF THE GOE ON A MATTER OF
SUCH POLITICAL SENSITIVITY. PERHAPS LEE IS RIGHT THAT
A FAVORABLE REPLY MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE THE
CAMP DAVID MEETING, BUT HE WOULD BE WELL ADVISED NOT
TO STAY UP LATE AT NIGHT WAITING FOR ONE.

2. IT IS A MEASURE OF THE LIMITED UNDERSTANDING THAT
AFL-CIO LEADERS SEEM TO HAVE OF EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS THAT
THEY SHOULD BELIEVE THEY CAN PRESS EGYPTIAN TRADE
UNIONISTS TO SHOW INDEPENDENCE FROM GOE POLICY IN A
HIGHLY POLITICAL MATTER OF THIS SORT. WE TOO HAVE
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ASSUMED THAT AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT IS UNLIKELY TO
SHOW MUCH INTEREST IN EGYPTIAN LABOR MOVEMENT UNTIL
SOME NEW PROGRESS IN EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI RELATIONS IS
MADE. THIS IS PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE TO US AND,
APART FROM THE REGRETTABLE RESULT THAT IT STRENGTHENS
PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS IN THE EGYPTIAN LABOR MOVEMENT,
IT DOES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT OVERALL USG/GOE RELATIONS.

WE AGREE THAT SUCH MATTERS SHOULD REMAIN BILATERAL TRADE UNION
ISSUES, ALTHOUGH WE SUSPECT THAT MUSTAFA WILL ON HIS
RETURN REPORT LEE'S REQUEST AND THAT IT WILL BE VIEWED
AS HAVING ACTIVE USG ENDORSEMENT. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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